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EPA-REGION 10

U.S. EPA
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The pollution the EPA is claiming they can remove from the Willamette River is not from current contamination. This is something that's been there for over 50 years. Those who are responsible for polluting the water should be the ones footing the bill to clean up their mess. There's just one problem with that. Most of the businesses at fault have ceased operations, and those individuals responsible for spearheading those activities are no longer living.

Let me preface my next few comments with this fact; I love living in the city of Portland, but I hate the government. Any government that arbitrarily shoves tax issues down the throats of their citizens in a way that screams, "If you don't like it, move out." is not one I'm a fan of. I will never be convinced that any county, city, or state government is entitled to take money out of my pocket in order to pay for a problem I did not contribute to creating. There is absolutely no justification for this, but sadly that's exactly what the government is trying to do with the EPA's suggestion for the Willamette River clean up task. It's unfair and unwarranted to force taxpayers to foot the bill for the cleaning of a river they did not pollute. I will steadfastly oppose any increase in utility costs or taxes in association with this process.

The Environmental Protection Agency does not have my vote of confidence either. They can come up with issues of importance, but as far as the recommendations for handling those issues, they're horrible. One only needs to take a look at the old gold mining sites in the western states to see this. The condition of those situations and the things that the EPA has done have only made matters worse. Their ability to diagnose and then come up with a workable plan to solve the problem of contamination in the Willamette River lacks all credibility with me. Common sense tells everyone not to consume fish from the Willamette River. The EPA says once they've cleaned up the river I'll be able to safely eat as much fish as I want out of the river. Based on their past failures I'd have to say, "No thank you, I'll pass."

Above and beyond that, I believe the plan the EPA has put together is ridiculous and unnecessary. I say everyone would be better off if we just left the river alone. Unearthing the bottom of the river and stirring up the contaminants will only compound the issue at hand. This will do more harm than good and will not solve the problem anyway. Allowing the river to work through its natural restoration process is the most economically sound idea there is. It's the least disruptive to the natural environment that the EPA is trying so hard to improve and protect. It would cause the least interruption in the activity that goes on in the concerned waterways.

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Regards,

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